

Listing of the Claims

Claims 1-12. (Canceled)

Claim 13. (Withdrawn) A method for whitening the teeth of a subject comprising the steps of sequentially

applying to the teeth a composition having a pH of between about 7 and about 10 and comprising an alkalizing agent, and

contacting the teeth with a mixture comprising a hydrogen peroxide precursor compound in an amount effective to whiten teeth.

Claim 14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13 wherein the alkalizing agent is selected from the group consisting of potassium phosphate, sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, ammonium hydroxide, sodium carbonate, ammonium carbonate, potassium carbonate, TRIS and triethanolamine.

Claim 15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13 wherein the composition is a rinse, paste or gel.

Claim 16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13 wherein the composition is buffered in a manner to maintain tooth surface pH between about 7 and about 10.

Claim 17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13 wherein tooth surface pH is maintained at a pH of between about 7 and about 10.

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) A method for whitening the teeth of a subject comprising the steps of sequentially

applying to the teeth a composition having a pH of between about 7 and about 10 and comprising an alkalizing agent, and

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